Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for configuring an endpoint device to a computer network, the endpoint device being in one of a plurality of classes of endpoint devices, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a dynamic allocation of a first unique network address to the endpoint device when the endpoint device is connected to the computer network;

establishing, in response to said monitoring, a connection between a configuration manager and the endpoint device;

identifying, through said established connection, a class of the endpoint device connected to the network from said plurality of classes of endpoint devices;

retrieving configuration information from a configuration database for the identified class of the endpoint device, the configuration database having specific configuration information for each of the plurality of classes of endpoint devices; and

configuring the endpoint device to the computer network using the retrieved configuration information.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

assigning to the endpoint device a second unique network address that is selected from a block of predetermined network addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, to replace the first unique network address.

3. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the first unique network address is a first IP address allocated by a DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server and the second unique network address is a second IP address assigned by the configuration manager.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computer network from the endpoint device, a request signal for assignment of a network address to the endpoint device; and

providing the first unique network address to the endpoint device in response to said request signal.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a polling signal to the endpoint device when the endpoint device is connected to the network;

receiving from the endpoint device a reply signal in response to the transmitted polling signal; and

providing the first unique network address to the endpoint device in response to said reply signal.

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the endpoint device comprises a router operatively connected to a second computer network for effecting a configuration of a plurality of computer networks.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the endpoint device comprises a computer-controlled standalone device.

8. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said assigning further comprises removing the first unique address from a listing of active addresses so as to reserve the first unique address for future use.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining, prior to said establishing, whether communication between the computer network and the endpoint device can be established; and

if communication cannot be established, assigning to the endpoint device a second unique network address selected from a block of predetermined network addresses that are each reserved for an unknown device, to replace the first unique network address that had been allocated to the endpoint device.

10. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the first unique network address is allocated to the endpoint device for a lease period, and further comprising the step of:

modifying, with said assigning of the second unique network address to replace the first unique network address, the lease period of the endpoint device connected to the computer network.

11. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether adding of the endpoint device to the computer network exceeds a predetermined threshold number of endpoint devices to be connected to the network; and

if the predetermined threshold number is exceeded, restricting the endpoint device to be added as a router operatively connected to a different computer network.

12. (currently amended) A server computer for configuring an endpoint device for connection to a computer network, the endpoint device being in one of a plurality of classes of endpoint devices, said server computer comprising:

a network interface;

a configuration database for storing configuration information for at least one class of the endpoint device;

means for verifying a first unique network address provided via said network interface to an endpoint device connected to the computer network and for providing a signal indicative of said verifying;

a connection manager operable for establishing, in response to the signal from said verifying means, communication between the computer network and the endpoint device; and

a configuration manager operable for identifying a class of the endpoint device connected to the computer network from said plurality of classes of endpoint devices, for retrieving from said configuration database configuration information for the identified class of the endpoint device, the configuration database having specific configuration information for each of the plurality of classes of endpoint devices, and for automatically configuring the endpoint device to the computer network using the retrieved configuration information.

13. (original) The server computer according to claim 12, further comprising:

a DHCP server for assigning to the endpoint device a unique IP address as the first unique address.

14. (original) The server computer according to claim 12, wherein said configuration manager is operable to assign to the endpoint device a second unique network address selected from a network address within a block of predetermined addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, wherein the second network address replaces the first network address.

15. (original) The server computer according to claim 12, wherein said verifying means comprises a DHCP watchdog.

16. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

monitoring a dynamic allocation of a first unique network address to an endpoint device when the endpoint device is connected to a computer network, the endpoint device being in one of a plurality of classes of endpoint devices;

establishing, in response to said monitoring, a connection between a configuration manager and the endpoint device;

identifying, through said established connection, a class of the endpoint device connected to the network from said plurality of classes of endpoint devices;

retrieving configuration information from a configuration database for the identified class of the endpoint device; and

configuring the endpoint device to the computer network using the retrieved configuration information.

17. (original) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

assigning to the endpoint device a second unique network address that is selected from a block of predetermined network addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, to replace the first unique network address.

18. (original) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the first unique network address is a first IP address allocated by a DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server and the second unique network address is a second IP address assigned by the configuration manager.

19. (original) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the endpoint device comprises a router operatively connected to a second computer network for effecting a configuration of a plurality of computer networks.

20. (original) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the endpoint device comprises a computer-controlled standalone device.

21. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of classes include at least one of a VoIP phone class, a computer workstation class, a switch class, and a router class.

22. (new) The server computer according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of classes include at least one of a VoIP phone class, a computer workstation class, a switch class, and a router class.

23. (new) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of classes include at least one of a VoIP phone class, a computer workstation class, a switch class, and a router class.

24. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein each class of the plurality of classes of endpoints is a type of endpoint device.

25. (new) The server computer according to claim 12, wherein each class of the plurality of classes of endpoints is a type of endpoint device.

26. (new) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein each class of the plurality of classes of endpoints is a type of endpoint device.